

Donate to NAFSA - See the World

At the 2010 NAFSA conference in Kansas City Diana Lopez won the 20 day enrichment voyage for two through Central America and the Panama Canal by donating to the Annual Fund.

Read about her exciting Semester at Sea Enrichment Voyage donated by Semester at Sea® / Institute for Shipboard Education and visit the Donate Now booth 1017 in NAFSA Commons at 2011 NAFSA conference in Vancouver for a chance to win a similar trip, and many other great prizes!



Thoughts on Semester at Sea's Enrichment Voyage

How does one put into a few words the experience of cruising around Mexico and Central America with all of its diverse culture, geography, history and people? The Semester at Sea Enrichment Voyage, donated by Semester at Sea® / Institute for Shipboard Education and which I won at the NAFSA raffle during the Annual Conference in Kansas City 2010, displayed the region's diversity in a 3-week voyage. I knew they offered college credit for a semester at sea, as one travels around the world, but they also offer 3-week Enrichment Voyages for everyone.

On days at sea, we could choose lectures on rocks, earthquakes, volcanoes, marine life, climate, artists, history and things to see of the port city and country we were visiting next. The lecturers were college professors, and we were also graced to a presentation by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who had been on board the previous semester. We could also take a digital photography class or listen to fellow passengers talk about their various experiences. And there was always Yoga and meeting others during meals. We spent Christmas Day transiting the Panama Canal, an awesome feat.



In port, activities ranged from horseback riding on Pacific Ocean beaches, snorkeling, or zip-lining thru the Costa Rican jungle to visiting museums with relics from ancient cultures, climbing Maya ruins, seeing a coffee plantation, or watching the locals weave the beautiful mats. Cathedrals and churches were in

every city. Iguanas, crocs, bushmaster vipers, monkeys, coatis, turkeys, sloths, dolphins, poisonous frogs, and killer ants, what more could you want? How about an elusive Quetzal?



And to prove once again just how small the world is: I presented a session on adult learning techniques, crediting NAFSA for my background and experience. One of the audience participants came up to me later and said she was a NAFSA member. We're planning to see each other in Vancouver and reminisce about the trip. I met a gentleman who knew another NAFSA member who used to work at my institution and was now at his institution. Then the cruise co-director used to teach at the University of Tennessee and another member of the staff received her Master's degree from UT. Several passengers had family in the Knoxville area or had traveled through East Tennessee. And it went on and on.

I would highly recommend that anyone who enjoys living on a ship check out the Semester at Sea voyages. The Lifelong Learners program fits perfectly the lifestyle of NAFSAs.

Diana Lopez, Retired
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